**Increase in the number of Judges in Chennai High Court**

1293. SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is proposed to increase the number of judges in the Chennai High Court considering the number of pending cases in the High Court;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. JANA KRISHNAMURTHI): (a) to (c) The review of Judge strength of High Courts in undertaken every 3 years with reference to the felt need for disposal of cases, taking into account, the backlog and expected future filing. For a comprehensive review of the Judge strength of the High Courts during the current year, the Chief Justices of the High Courts, including the Madras High Court, have been requested to furnish information interaliation institution and disposal of main cases during 1997—2001 by 31st July, 2002.

**Menace of defection**

1294. SHRI MOOLCHAND MEENA:
SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD:

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to amend the 10th Schedule of the Constitution to tackle the menace of defection in the country;

(b) whether gross misuse of the provision is found to be rampant in small States;

(c) if so, whether Government have received the comments of all the political parties in this regard; and

(d) if so, by when final decision for amending the 10th Schedule of the Constitution is likely to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. JANA KRISHNAMURTHI): (a) to (d) The requisite information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.